

CHAIR



Joanne Hodge, Bell Gully, Auckland

In 2013 Joanne returned to Bell Gully as a tax partner in the Auckland office after a five year absence including two years in Sydney with her family. She has had almost 30 years of specialist tax experience and advises on all aspects of corporate taxation for public and private companies and financial institutions. Joanne advises on investment in New Zealand for non-residents, trans-Tasman tax issues, corporate reorganisations and joint ventures involving either New Zealand or foreign participants in the acquisition of assets.

SPEAKERS



Vivian Cheng, Chapman Tripp, Wellington

Vivian is an experienced tax practitioner, with particular expertise in corporate restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, financing transactions, cross border taxation and FATCA. She has been extensively involved in the implementation of FATCA in New Zealand from the outset. Vivian has advised many New Zealand financial institutions on their FATCA obligations and has also provided technical support in the negotiation of New Zealand's IGA and in relation to domestic enabling legislation.



James Coleman, Barrister, Wellington

James specialises in all forms of tax litigation. He has had over 20 years tax litigation experience having appeared in over 140 reported tax cases in that time. James's tax litigation includes appearances in the Supreme Court and Privy Council. James published the second edition of his 2013 text on Tax Avoidance Law in New Zealand.



Shaun Connelly, Russell McVeagh, Wellington

Shaun has worked for Russell McVeagh since 2002 and has been a partner since 2008. He advises on all areas of New Zealand tax law including tax efficient business and investment structures, the establishment of managed funds and retail investment products, complex financing arrangements, tax disputes and tax policy issues.



Barney Cumberland, Simpson Grierson, Auckland

Barney is a tax partner with a wide range of experience in all fields of New Zealand's domestic and international tax law. He works closely with the firm's corporate advisory and banking lawyers, regularly advising clients on tax and structuring issues associated with M&A activity and financing transactions. Barney also regularly assists the firm's property and infrastructure clients with a wide array of income tax and GST issues.

SPEAKERS



Lindsay McKay, Barrister, Auckland

Lindsay appeared as counsel for Alesco New Zealand Limited in its challenge proceedings against the Commissioner of Inland Revenue.



Graham Murray, Bell Gully, Auckland

Graham has been a member of the Bell Gully tax division since 2005, and a Senior Associate since 2012. He advises on all aspects of corporate income tax, including the taxation of corporate restructuring and financing transactions, M&A transactions, cross-border arrangements and joint venture structures. Graham also has particular expertise in the taxation of financing and securitisation structures. He regularly advises on the tax aspects of employee remuneration arrangements (including tax exempt share schemes and share option schemes), advises new migrants and returning expatriates on New Zealand tax issues and various funds management clients on PIE tax matters.



Greg Neill, Russell McVeagh, Auckland

Greg is a Senior Associate in the tax group at Russell McVeagh in Auckland and advises on all aspects of New Zealand tax law. He specialises in mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, financing and capital markets transactions and general corporate tax. Greg also has extensive experience in the context of tax investigations and disputes and in obtaining binding rulings for clients.



John Payne, New Zealand Superannuation Fund, Auckland

John is Head of Tax at the Government's \$25b New Zealand Superannuation Fund and convenor of the tax thought leadership group, the Corporate Taxpayer Group. He is also a member of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue's Business Transformation Reference Group. John has been at the New Zealand Superannuation Fund for five years. Prior to this he was Head of Tax and Treasurer at Carter Holt Harvey, Head of Tax at Vodafone New Zealand, Brierley Investments and Progressive Enterprises. John has also provided tax consultancy services to Fonterra and ASB and was a Senior Tax Manager at EY in Auckland. He is a member of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants, and has a B Com from Auckland University.



Carmel Peters, Inland Revenue, Wellington

Carmel is a policy manager for Policy and Strategy, Inland Revenue, in New Zealand. She is currently managing the review of New Zealand's international tax rules which involves comprehensive reform of the taxation of outbound investment. Carmel negotiates New Zealand's double tax agreements and is the New Zealand delegate to Working Party 1 (Tax Treaties) at the OECD. Carmel was recently appointed to the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters.

SPEAKERS



Rachel Piper, KPMG, Auckland

Rachel joined KPMG in 1997 and became a Partner in 2008. She has extensive experience advising on tax matters for a wide range of clients. Rachel has a particular focus on the property and financial services sectors and has assisted a number of New Zealand Stock Exchange listed clients with acquisitions and capital raising transactions.



Robin Oliver, Olivershaw Ltd, Wellington

Robin is a Director and shareholder in Olivershaw Limited and on the Advisory Board of the New Zealand Tax Trading Company. He is a very experienced tax practitioner with a reputation for bringing different perspectives (private and public sector, practitioner and manager) and disciplines (legal, accounting and economics) to issues. Robin holds a Master of Arts degree with first class honours and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Auckland. He has undertaken additional studies in economics, accounting and management. Robin was Deputy Commissioner of New Zealand's Inland Revenue Department from 1995 to November 2011. As Deputy Commissioner, he was a member of the New Zealand Inland Revenue Executive Board and subsidiary bodies overseeing the strategic direction and management of the Department. For services in that role Robin was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2009 Queens's birthday Honours list. In 2009, he was appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations to the UN Committee of Experts on International Tax Co-operation, a position held until 2013.



Rachel Roff, Crown Law, Wellington

Rachel has been a Crown Counsel in the Revenue Team since 2007. Before this she was a solicitor at Legal Technical Services in Wellington. Rachel has represented the Commissioner in the Court of Appeal, High Court, District Court, Family Court and Taxation Review Authority in cases concerning tax, child support, judicial review, company law and debt. She has been involved in a number of significant high profile tax cases, including the structured finance and OCN litigation.



Neil Russ, Buddle Findlay, Auckland

Neil is a partner in Buddle Findlay's tax practice and has over 25 years' experience as a tax and finance practitioner in England and New Zealand. He is an expert in all New Zealand taxes, and has extensive experience advising banks, New Zealand and foreign corporates, funds and other investors on cross-border and domestic transactions. Neil is the Convenor of the NZLS Tax Law Committee.

SPEAKERS



Richard Scoular, PwC, Auckland

Richard is a partner at PwC and leads the firm's Certainty and Controversy practice. He has advised on some of New Zealand's largest corporate receiverships and has advised lenders and distressed borrowers and their directors on major corporate restructures.



Keith Turner, nsaTax, Auckland

Keith is a tax lawyer with 25 years' experience of working in New Zealand and UK law firms, and New Zealand accounting firms. His areas of tax specialisation include land transactions, taxation of trusts, cross border structuring and inbound/outbound tax planning. Keith regularly presents on tax issues at NZICA and ADLS events.



Simon Weil, Anthony Harper, Auckland

Simon first started in the law in 1981 and has practised in the specialist trust law and asset-protection planning field internationally and in New Zealand for over 20 years. He has broad international practice experience in the property, company and commercial fields. Simon is a member of STEP and the Estate and Taxation Planning Council of New Zealand and has presented seminars and webinars for NZLS CLE.

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